

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 042124

R 011614Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6537

INFO FFAA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 2883

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR, UR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: TU-144 CRASH REPORT

1. AP HAS CARRIED STORY, PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 1 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, REPORTING AVIATION SOURCES IN PARIS AS STATING THAT INVESTIGATION MADE FOLLOWING TU-144 CRASH AT PARIS AIR SHOW LAST JUNE CLEARED TU-144 OF TECHNICAL FAULT AND SUGGESTED PILOT ERROR WAS CAUSE OF CRASH. PILOT SAID TO HAVE LANDED TU-144 TOO HEAVILY ON PREVIOUS DAY AND JUST BEFORE CRASH APPROACHED WRONG RUNWAY AND HAD TO MAKE EXTREMELY TIGHT TURN TO CORRECT HIS APPROACH, WHICH CAUSED STRUCTURAL DAMAGE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE STEEP, FATAL CLIMB DURING WHICH CONTROLS JAMMED. SOURCE DOUBTED THAT SOVIETS WILL EVER AGREE TO PUBLICATION OF REPORT.

2. COMMENTING ON ABOVE TO FAA REP, SGAC OFFICIAL WHO WAS MEMBER OF FRANCO-SOVIET COMMISSION INVESTIGATING CRASH SAID THAT HARD LANDING HAD NEVER COME TO
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COMMISSION'S ATTENTION. WHILE THUS CASTING DOUBT

ON ACCURACY OF AP STORY, SGAC OFFICIAL WAS RELUCTANT
TO COMMIT HIMSELF TO CONFIRMING WHETHER PILOT ERROR
WAS OVER-ALL CONCLUSION OF INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION'S
REPORT. HE SAID THAT REPORT WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO
FRENCH AND SOVIET MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVAIR
QUESTIONS AND IT WOULD BE THEIR DECISION ON WHAT
DISPOSITION SHOULD BE GIVEN REPORT AND ITS
FINDINGS.
STONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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